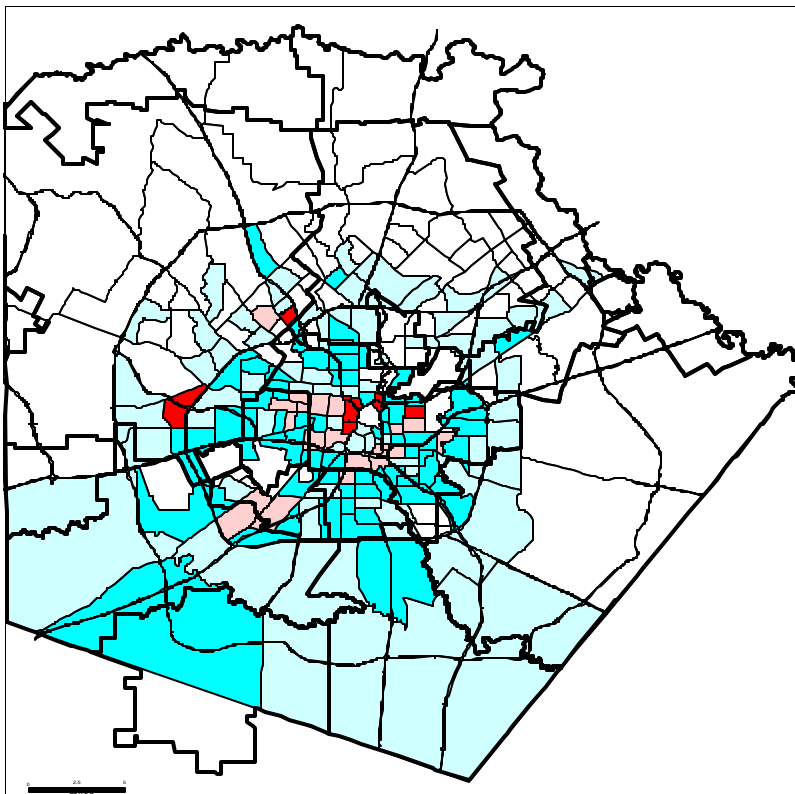


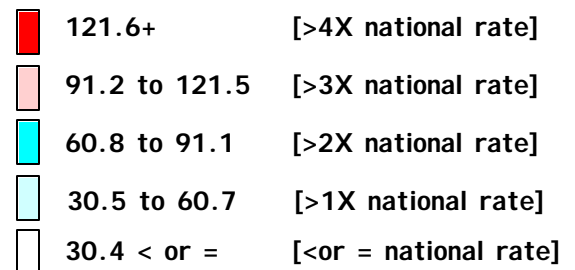
teen pregnancy

Bexar County 2000



1996-98 Bexar County Birth Rate for Females 15-17

Births /1000 Females 15-17:



[1996 - 1998 Births Births/3]

[1997 Claritas Population Estimates]

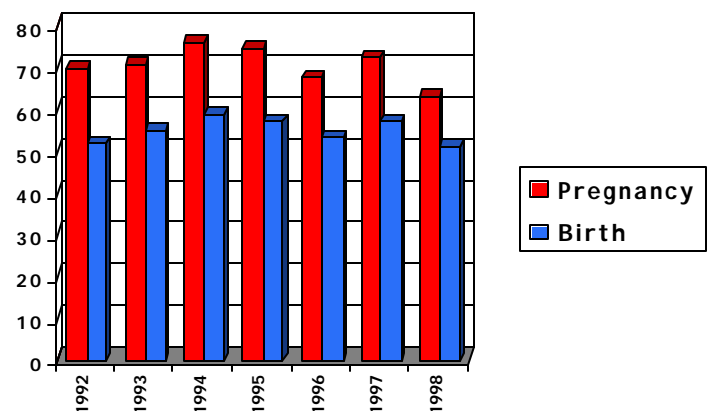
Bexar County 1992-1998 Pregnancies, Births per 1000 Females 15-17

COMPARED TO THE U.S.:

In 1998, Bexar County's rate of births to females 15-17 was 51.1 per 1,000: over 68% higher than the U.S. rate of 30.4.

For Bexar County females 10-14, the rate of births was 2.0 per 1,000: twice the national rate of 1.0!

Rates fell from 1997 to 1998, but it is not yet clear if Bexar County rates are consistently falling like the U.S. rates.



Source: Texas Department of Health

The COSTS of Teen Pregnancy:

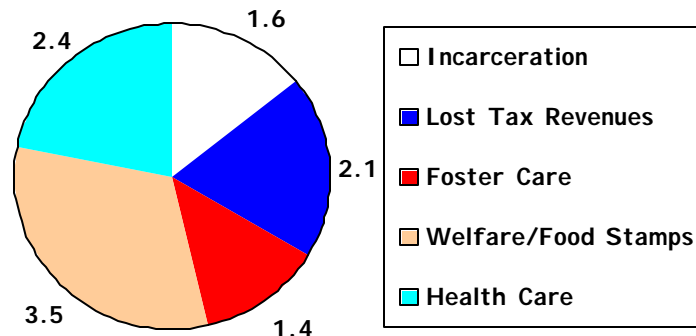
Higher risks for the mother:

- u Dropping out of school
- u Welfare
- u Abortion
- u Single Parenthood
- u More offspring
- u Late prenatal care

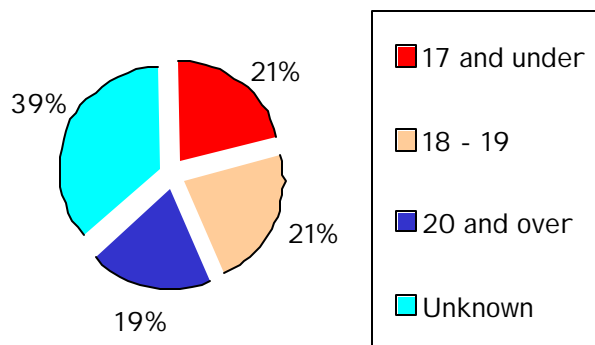
Higher risks for the baby:

- u Low birth weight
- u Infant mortality
- u Abuse and neglect
- u Poor school performance
- u Behavior problems
- u Becoming a teen parent
- u Incarceration

1998 Bexar County Costs in \$millions: Total = \$11.05 Million



Many fathers of "teen" pregnancies are older:



What Works to Reduce Teen Pregnancy?

- u There are no simple answers: communities must do many things to have effective prevention.
- u Well-designed education programs can decrease risky behavior. Sex education has been shown NOT to increase sexual activity or cause earlier first intercourse.
- u Access to contraceptives can increase use and protection from pregnancies and STDs. Access to contraceptives has been shown NOT to increase or promote sexual activity.
- u Youth development programs offer teens a brighter future--and reasons to delay pregnancy and childbearing.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO PREVENT TEEN PREGNANCIES?

- u Talk to your kids about sex, love, values, and responsibility.
- u Encourage sexual abstinence as a positive and healthy choice.
- u Help teens to see a bright future for themselves.
- u Provide teens with healthy activities and good role models.
- u Give teens a clear and consistent message:
ADOLESCENCE IS FOR EDUCATION AND GROWING UP, NOT FOR HAVING BABIES.
- u Reduce conflict: "While the adults are arguing, the kids are getting pregnant."

Prepared by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District
Family Planning Program & Health Education and Promotion Division
For more information call 207-2107